

**STATEWIDE VEHICLE THEFT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
LAW ENFORCEMENT  
October 30, 2007**

**ATTENDEES:**

Captain Janice Mulanix, California Highway Patrol (CHP) – Chairperson; Captain Troy Broddrick, Stockton Police Department (PD); Sergeant Keith Green, Stockton PD, and Chief Robert Yee, Department of Insurance (DOI);

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- The minutes of the previous subcommittee meeting were discussed and each Action Item addressed.
  - Non-Recovered Vehicles – Border/Exportation Factors:

There is a large VIN switch operation being investigated out of the CHP Inland and Border Divisions. This investigation has revealed a significant number of stolen vehicles are being exported to Mexico where fraudulent titling documents are being produced and the vehicles identification numbers are being changed.

Investigators of the case will give a presentation regarding this case at the Statewide Vehicle Theft Advisory Meeting scheduled for November 13, 2007.

- Addressing Utility Trailer Theft Problems:

The problem of identifying utility type trailers and other special construction equipment because of lack of identifying numbers was presented at the SVTAC meeting in June.

The Department of Motor Vehicles agreed to explore a public awareness campaign directed to owners of this type of equipment. The information would stress the importance of applying owner numbers for identifying purposes to this equipment.

Additionally, law enforcement agencies need to address training personnel in the importance of including these owner numbers on stolen property reports so that the property can be entered in the Stolen Property or Stolen Vehicle system.

- Enhancing Vertical Prosecution Statewide:

The issue of more vertical prosecution was presented at the SVTAC meeting in June. The problem is in educating county officials that vehicle theft is more than a victimless crime.

Legislation was chaptered in September which added vehicle theft to those crimes listed as a crime of “Profiteering”, increasing penalties.

- Public Awareness Campaign

Captain Mulanix will confer with the previous chairperson of the committee to determine if any action was taken regarding this issue. (See Action Item #2.)

- Training, Information, Awareness, and Recognition of Law Enforcement:

Efforts to acknowledge non-sworn personnel who are instrumental in vehicle theft recovery are continuing.

In October the CHP sent out 300 “10851” award pins to their Central Division office for distribution to their personnel and allied agency personnel who have qualified for the award.

Assembly Bill 878 which would have increased funding for county vehicle theft task forces was vetoed by the Governor in October.

- POST Telecourse:

POST added a link to their learning portal for the Attorney General’s presentation regarding the out-of-state registration of vehicles to circumvent California registration fees.

POST has expressed an interest in providing space on their learning portal for vehicle theft enforcement educational material.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Captain Mulanix related the Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force was recently issued an award for their efforts in reducing vehicle theft in that county. Stanislaus County sustained a 29% reduction in vehicle theft in 2006.
- San Joaquin County experienced an increase in vehicle theft. Captain Broddrick and Sergeant Green attributed this fact to the lack of priority given to vehicle theft as a crime. Mr. Yee added that although the insurance fraud task force utilized grant money to fund prosecutors, vehicle theft cases have low priority within the county.
- Mr. Yee also related that the Department of Insurance also has developed a committee much like SVTAC, with a subcommittee board that will refer topics to the main board. It is just being developed and more reports will be forthcoming.
- Captain Broddrick and Sergeant Green related that their agency has a high incidence of repeat offenders and that tracking devices placed on vehicles have been instrumental in identifying offenders’ activities.

Captain Broddrick and Sergeant Green added that the victims of vehicle theft who suffer the most are the owners of low value vehicles who depend on those vehicles for transportation to work, school, and medical care. These vehicles are often uninsured due to their low value, and when stolen the owners are not compensated.

- **Action Item #1:** - Continue to poll the main SVTAC membership for ideas to educate the judicial level of the court system in the importance of vehicle theft as a crime, and its relationship to other more violent crimes. Also work with the Legislative subcommittee toward more uniform vertical prosecution.
- **Action Item #2:** - Continue to work with DMV, and NICB to develop public awareness campaigns aimed at vehicle theft prevention. This includes identifying utility and special construction type trailers and equipment
- **Action Item #3:** Continue developing case information regarding the exportation of stolen vehicles to Mexico and other foreign jurisdictions and strategies to combat it.
- **Action Item #4:** Continue working with law enforcement agencies to recognize non-sworn personnel in vehicle theft recovery efforts. Additionally, continue working with POST toward adding information to their learning portal which would be available to law enforcement. This could include a "BLOG" type page which would include questions answered by experts, as well as excerpts, from the CHP Vehicle Theft Course.
- **Action Item #5:** The CHP is presenting to DMV a suggestion that would automate the VIN verification forms and the Salvage Vehicle Inspection Certificates. The presentation will be given at the next CHP/DMV meeting. The automation suggestion involves electronic transmittal of the VIN verification forms and Salvage Certificates, much like the current online registration renewal forms. More information will be given at future subcommittee meetings.